

REMARKS

Applicants submit that this Amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Moreover, applicants submit that this Amendment responds to at least one argument that was first presented in the Office Action mailed February 26, 2002. Applicants submit that thus there is a good and sufficient reason why this Amendment is necessary, why this Amendment was not earlier presented, and why this Amendment should be admitted now. Furthermore, applicants believe that consideration of this Amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Office Action Rejections Summary

Claims 1-13 and 15-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,751,710 of Crowther et al. ("Crowther") in view of the Admitted Prior Art.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-13 and 15-36 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 33 have been amended to more properly define existing claim limitations. The amended claims are supported by the specification. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added. Claim 14 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-13 and 15-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In particular, the Examiner states:

Claims 1 and 33 specify "software configurable slot remap registers." The term "slot remap register" is not commonly used in the art. For example, there exist no U.S. patents with the terms "slot," "remap," and "register" in the same patent. Page 8 of the specification merely teaches that the slot remap registers are programmed into the switch planes, and that the resulting replication feature differs from the prior art because it allows implementation through software rather than through hardware. Figs. 4 and 5 are apparently intended to provide enabling detail for the slot remap register. But Fig. 5 is only a table, and the discussion in the specification does not teach how to make the table, where or how to store it, or how to use it. Fig. 4 simply depicts the slot remap register as adjacent squares. Mapping information, the manner of creation of which is left untaught, is delivered to both the Spatial Crossbar 213 and the Logic Scheduler 215. This raises the issue that in order to teach how to make and use the slot remap registers it is necessary to also teach how to make and use the Logic Schedulers. But Fig. 4 simply depicts the Logic Scheduler as a square, and the specification fails to provide adequate instruction in the manner of making and using the Logic Scheduler. The specification therefore fails to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make or use the invention as claimed. Claims 2-4 and 34-36 depend on claims 1 and 33 and are therefore similarly rejected.

(p. 2-3, Office Action 11/5/02).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Actions assertions with respect to claims 1 and 33. In particular, applicants respectfully submit that there is no requirement that all the terms "slot," "remap" and "register" appear together within the same patent, or other reference, for one of ordinary skill in the art to understand this phrase and know, with certainty, what is meant thereby. Applicant's wish to remind the Examiner that applicants are allowed to be their own lexicographers. In addition, the term "slot remap register" is described in detail in the specification as discussed in applicant's previous response.

Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution of the application, applicants have amended the claims to remove the language of "slot remap." Claims 1 and 33 each recite "a plurality of software configurable registers." Applicants respectfully submit and hope

that the Examiner will appreciate **that a “register” is known to one of ordinary skill in the art.**

With respect to the other comments by the Office Action, the applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand how to make a table, where or how to store it, or how to use it.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action’s assertion with respect to claims 5, 15 and 24. The Office Action asserts that “[A]ccording to the specification, the “software configurable mapping information” is the “slot remap registers.”” (Office Action 11/5/02, page 3). Applicants respectfully submit that the mapping information is not the registers. Rather, the mapping information is stored in the registers. Moreover, the mapping information is described in the specification in such a way to enable one of skill in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. For example, the specification at page 9, lines 1-20 states “Mapping information 422 identifies the data out destination slots $441_1 \dots 416_N$ to which data is to be transmitted through the crossbar 213.”

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 5, 15, 24 and 33 (and the claims that depend thereon) meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and therefore that the rejection with respect to those claims be withdrawn.

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,751,710 of Crowther in view of the Admitted Prior Art. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action’s assertion. However, applicants have cancelled claim 14 and, therefore, submit that the rejection with respect to claim 14 is now moot.

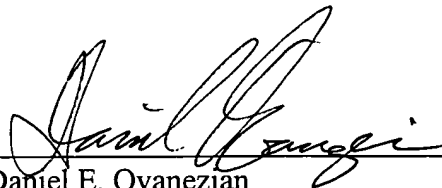
In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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